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4.24.03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Satoru Matsuda  
Appl. No.: 09/389,603  
Filed: September 3, 1999  
Title: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR VIRTUAL REALITY AURA SETTING  
Art Unit: 2671  
Examiner: H. Cao  
Docket No.: 112857-179

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

REMARKS

The present remarks are in response to the Office Action entered in the above-identified case and mailed July 18, 2002. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Of these claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,405,249 to Matsuda et al. The remaining claims were objected to, although no grounds for objection were given. Applicant assumes that the reason for objection is that the objectionable claims depend from rejected based claims. With regard to the rejection under §102(e) Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,405,249 to Matsuda et al. Matsuda et al. claims priority from a Japanese application filed January 23, 1998. However, Matsuda et al. did not file in the U.S. until January 11, 1999. The instant application claims priority from Japanese patent application P10-277064 filed on September 30, 1998.

According to 35 U.S.C. §102(e)(2), an inventor is entitled to a patent unless the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the Applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed